Modernisation of Naval Shipyards

2542. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that modernisation of Naval Shipyards is essential for indigenisation of Navy and enable the country to occupy a prominent place in the world;

(b) if so, the details of the programme carried out by the Ministry for modernizing the Naval Shipyards; and

(c) the details of reasons for slow pace of modernizing?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Modernisation and development of Naval shipyards in relation to indigenisation of the Indian Navy is an ongoing process dictated primarily by the threat perceptions and prevailing external strategic/security environment as also the emerging technologies. With increased emphasis on induction of high technology naval platforms, the Naval shipyards are programmed for periodic upgradation in technology to achieve greater indigenisation of the Navy.

Casualties of Jawans due to explosions in Jaisalmer, Rajasthan

†2543. SHRI BACHANI LEKHRAJ: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a number of Jawans have died and sustained injuries as a result of explosions during the last six months in Jaisalmer, Rajasthan;

(b) if so, the number of Jawans who suffered casualties and injured:

(c) whether Government have conducted any enquiry into the above explosions; and

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†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) and (b) The figures of Jawans who have died or have sustained injuries as a result of mine explosions or explosion of Improvised Explosive Devices are not maintained on a state-wise basis. However, as per available records the Army Headquarters has informed that 61 Army personnel were killed and 159 were wounded due to mine accidents and Improvised Explosive Device explosions during the last 6 months (1st October 2001 to 31st March 2002).

(c) and (d) Initial high level inquiries revealed that the mine laying operations were carried out in adverse climatic and terrain conditions like night laying, fog etc. Due to such constraints certain accidents could possibly be ascribed to human error. In certain cases, mines and fuzes held in inventory for a long period, did not perform satisfactorily. The Government have initiated steps to ensure that new mines and fuzes are introduced to replace the old inventories.

Submarine Building Programme for Indian Navy

2544. SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have approved a 30 year submarine building programme to meet the needs of Indian Navy;

(b) if so, whether these submarines will be built indigenously or with the collaboration of some other country; and

(c) the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) to (c) Government have approved a long term perspective plan for indigenous construction of submarines and acquisition of national competence in submarine building. The plan is to be implemented in two phases. The first phase is scheduled for completion in 2012 and the second phase in 2030. Requisite